

REMARKS

Claim 9 was objected to for “disposed,” which is corrected. The Examiner is thanked for pointing out this typographical error.

The Examiner rejected Claims 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Le Chot (US 1,328,087) in view of Sedgley (US 1,521,331). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

(1) The Applicants disclose an exemplary pressure adjusting element 40 that adjusts inwardly or outwardly to change the maximum torsion screwing force, by more or less compressing the spring 30 and therefore adjusting the axial force and thus the torsion needed to chatter the teeth 13 and 22. Because of the pressure adjusting element 40, there is no need to replace the spring 30 when adjusting the torsion.

The Examiner points to cap 4 of Le Chot as anticipating the claimed pressure adjusting element. However, the Applicants respectfully point out that Le Chot nowhere teaches that cap 4 is a pressure adjustment, and instead teaches adjustment by replacing this spring. Le Chot states at page 1, line 103: “The strength or tension of the expansible member 10 determines the tightness of the work, and for this reason member 10 is readily removed so that it can be replaced with a similar member of either greater or less strength or tension.” From the last sentence of this passage it is clear that both “strength or tension” means the spring constant, and does not mean applied force or compression.

Le Chot's cap 4 is shown screwed down to the end of its downward travel, which does not suggest adjustment. Instead, it is seen to suggest that the cap 4 is screwed tight to secure it

against loosening. Loosening might be caused by friction of the shank 6 against the cap opening 5, which closely surrounds the shank 6, because the driving direction is also the direction for unscrewing the cap 4 (the Examiner is invited to note the orientation of the tooth 7 in Fig. 1).

(Such loosening is not a problem for the Applicants. Claim 9 recites *a ratchet wheel ... having a region of relatively greater diameter terminating in said first end [with the teeth] and a region of relatively smaller diameter terminating in said second end; ... a torsion tool hole at said second end of said ratchet wheel; a spring mounted around said region of said ratchet wheel of relatively smaller diameter ...* The fact that the torsion tool hole is at the end of the ratchet wheel that is surrounded by the spring shows that in the claimed socket, the tool does not contact the spring. The reason is that a tool which fits a “hole” (exemplified by a hex, or Allen wrench) needs no shoulder and is no bigger in diameter than the hole itself; so it won't be expected to touch the spring, and it won't be expected to touch the part that fits against the end of the spring. (Fig. 4 of the Applicants' drawing exemplifies this.)

Thus, Le Chot discloses explicitly, and also implies through its drawing, that the cap 4 is not for adjusting spring pressure.


With respect, the secondary reference also fails to disclose any mechanical adjustment of spring pressure, or any variation of spring pressure to adjust the maximum torsion. Sedgley shows square teeth (Fig. 5) which are not suitable for adjusting the maximum torsion and are instead intended for selective engagement, with the spring being compressed only by the user (page 2, lines 48-64 and page 3, lines 25-33); in fact the spring can be omitted (page 3, lines 33-43).

Thus, no combination of the references, even if obvious to combine (not admitted), would reach the Applicants' claims, and there is no suggestion from either reference toward "rotation of said pressure adjusting element within said inner hole adjusts an amount of pressed force on said spring and thus on said ratchet wheel."

It is noted that the square teeth of Sedgley, which are mentioned above, teach contrary to combining the references

Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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